

7 May 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. John O. Marsh
Counselor to the President

SUBJECT: Senate Oversight

1. George Cary asked that I pass on to you our latest reading.
2. Senator Percy is still not convinced that he should oppose an open budget. Thus it would appear that he would vote for disclosure of the intelligence community budget when the Select Committee proposal to do so reaches the Senate floor. Also, it would appear that he would continue to support an annual authorization requirement as proposed by the Select Committee and the Government Operations Committee.
3. On oversight we understand that Senator Church has a new proposal which would:
 - a. Provide exclusive oversight over CIA/DCI
 - b. Shared oversight over all other intelligence (original referral to the new committee and when measure reported out if other committees assert their jurisdiction matter to be referred to them for 30-day period then to the floor).
 - c. Disclosure of information follows the procedure set forth in S. Res. 400 with the elimination of the provision authorizing a member not on the Committee, to receive information for the Committee.
 - d. Require an unclassified annual report from the Director.
 - e. Impose a 6 year limit on membership with no designated seats from other Committees.
4. We have been told that if the Cannon substitute loses support a likely compromise would be to permit the new committee to have exclusive oversight over CIA/DCI with oversight of the DOD elements being retained by Senate Armed Services Committee. Cutting off the Director and the Agency in this respect would be a severe challenge to his overall community role.

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Houston, Texas
29 April 1976

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Executive Registry

76-7885

OLC 76-1311

QUESTION: Hal Walker, CBS News.

Mr. President, how can you expect to win the State of Texas without the support of such a powerful political figure as former Governor John Connally? What are you doing to get an endorsement from Mr. Connally, and do you expect one between now and Saturday?

THE PRESIDENT: I have had two meetings with my good friend John Connally over the last months. He didn't indicate he would endorse me or my opponent, and I never asked him to endorse me. I think the better way for this primary to proceed is for my opponent and myself to meet head-to-head, which we are doing.

It would also be helpful for a distinguished public servant like John Connally to have his endorsement, but he, for good reasons, has decided not to endorse either my opponent or myself and so we are meeting head-to-head, my opponent and myself, and perhaps that is the best way to have it happen.

QUESTION: Thank you.

QUESTION: Mr. President, Bob Sirkin, from WFAA-TV in Dallas.

More of the Senate Intelligence Committee's findings were released yesterday and they said U.S. intelligence agencies felt they not only had a right to break the law but they had the duty to break the law, and I wonder if you agree with that summation and how these findings will influence your future directives to the CIA?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the directives that I initiated for the total intelligence community, including the CIA, directives that I signed about a month ago, under my directives would not condone any violation of the law and would provide for strict enforcement against anybody in the intelligence community that violated the law.

So I have already taken care of that problem and I think the new CIA, the new intelligence community directives are an affirmative answer to the charges that are made by the Senate committee.

QUESTION: Well, sir, do you agree with the findings of this committee in regard to --

THE PRESIDENT: Frankly, I have not had an opportunity to read the volumes of their testimony, or their conclusions. I have to look to the future. As far as I know, none of the allegations that they made, such as you have indicated, took place since I became President. They may have taken place beforehand, but I can assure you that they will not take place under the directives that I have given to the intelligence community, including the CIA.

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QUESTION: Do you think Senator Tower, then, is proper in not signing the bill?

THE PRESIDENT: It is not a bill; it is the committee report. I have a great deal of respect for Senator John Tower. If he decided not to sign the committee report, I certainly would back him up.

QUESTION: Fred Barnes of the Washington Star.

Mr. President, you mentioned a few minutes ago why you don't use Ronald Reagan's name while you are campaigning. I have noticed there is another name you never mention, and that is Richard Nixon. You mention Lyndon Johnson and Dwight Eisenhower and other Presidents but you only refer to Nixon as your predecessor or even as Lyndon Johnson's successor. How come you won't mention his name?

THE PRESIDENT: It is my judgment that that is an unfortunate era, certainly the period that took place from 1971 or 1973 on, and I think the more that all of us forget that period and the unfortunate developments, the better.

QUESTION: You are saying you are deliberately not mentioning his name?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is better for all of us to just not remind ourselves of that unfortunate period. I do it deliberately.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I am Louis Alexander for Newsweek.

Here in Texas we understand that many supporters of Governor George Wallace will cross over Saturday to vote in the Republican primary. If that happens, how do you think that will affect the votes for you?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no way of judging whether that element of the Democratic Party will cross over and vote for my opponent.

I have said that I want all Democrats who believe in my philosophy, who subscribe to the success that we have had domestically as well as internationally, I want them to vote for me and I hope they will. But I have no way of judging how many of the Wallace Democrats would subscribe and, therefore, vote for my Republican opponent. There is just no way I can give you a definitive answer on that.

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Routing Slip

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2	DDCI				
3	S/MC				
4	DDS&T				
5	DDI				
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
8	D/DCI/IC		X		
9	D/DCI/NIO				
10	GC		X		
11	LC		X		
12	IG				
13	Compt				
14	D/Pers				
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16	DTR				
17	Asst/DCI		X		
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19	A. KNOX		X		
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SUSPENSE _____ Date _____

Remarks:

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